

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending May 20, 2001

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Spring wheat seeding was completed  
Range and pasture maturity behind schedule**

### FIELD CROPS

Spring wheat seeding was completed last week under ideal conditions. Timely rainfall in Whitman County helped reinforce producer confidence that winter wheat yields will be very good this year. Late seeding of spring grains have growers concerned about insect attack. Dry bean planting continued. Christmas tree growers continued applying pesticides to control needle midge and adelgids.

### LIVESTOCK

Lack of seasonal precipitation coupled with cool temperatures kept range and pasture conditions behind schedule. Range and pasture condition was 5% very poor, 19% poor, 30% fair, 45% good and 1% excellent. Some producers were forced to haul water to their livestock due to dried up streams. A few counties were in the process of requesting emergency grazing on CRP land. The first cutting of alfalfa hay continued. Dairy producers continued harvesting green chop.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Irrigation water supplies were a concern in the fruit reporting districts as thinning, irrigation, and weed control were the main activities keeping producers busy last week. Some isolated cases of fire blight were reported in the Yakima Valley. Cutworm pressure in grapes was reported extremely high. Cool spring temperatures have caused this years cranberry bogs to lag slightly behind schedule. Cabbage seed crops were starting to bloom.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.0	6.9

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	100	99	100	98
Spring Wheat Emerged	92	83	95	88
Winter Wheat Headed	15	7	18	12
Barley Planted	99	94	100	97
Barley Emerged	87	70	95	86
Potatoes Emerged	67	53	85	69
Corn Planted	89	67	96	89
Dry Beans Planted	15	5	21	13
Dry Peas Planted	98	81	99	95
Pro. Green Peas Planted	95	85	100	40
Alfalfa, 1 <sup>st</sup> cutting	13	6	19	6

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	10	85	3
Subsoil	5	37	58	-
Irrigation Water	-	15	85	-
Hay and Roughage	-	10	90	-
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	-	7	28	47	18
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	2	5	51	34	8
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Barley Dryland	-	2	43	53	2
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

\* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## WESTERN

**Grays Harbor:** Torrential rainfall early in the week, prevented any field activity. Drier conditions, combined with warmer temperatures, allowed a flurry of activity late in the week, as growers raced to prepare fields for corn planting. Christmas tree growers began making initial pesticide applications for controlling adelgids and Douglas fir needle midge. Dairy farmers continued harvesting green chop. Commercial dahlia growers planted tubers. Direct market growers were busy planting warm season vegetable crops.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** Predicted warm weather should help to finalize spring planting. Cool weather retarded pasture and hay growth, which will probably result in overall lower yields. Cranberries were a week or more behind schedule due to the cool spring.

**Island:** Some precipitation was received, but not enough to replenish water supplies. Crops were on schedule. The first cutting of silage began.

**King:** Very wet weather, early in the week, shut down all farming operations. Rhubarb harvest and vegetable planting continued. Early sweet corn was being planted. Flower harvest was complete.

**Pierce/Thurston:** There was nothing unusual to report for the week. The wind was high in some places, but there were no reports of crop damage from the wind or any other weather condition.

**San Juan:** A fair amount of rain was received this week. Temperatures were cooler. Hay and pasture crops were planted.

**Skagit:** Heavy rain and cool weather stopped fieldwork early in the week. Farmers were able to start fieldwork again on Sunday. In northwest Skagit County, some fields had standing water. There may be possible crop damage to spinach fields, which were planted but not up yet. Apple orchards were finished blooming with a very short window due to the cooler weather. Cabbage seed crops were starting to bloom.

**Skagit (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Planting operations continued. Wet weather restricted field operations for a couple of days.

**Snohomish/Clallum:** Heavy rain and windy conditions were reported the first half of the week. The weekend weather was pleasant, with temperatures in the 60's. There were no reports of crop damage from stormy weather.

**Snohomish (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** There were heavy rains early in the week. Some areas received over 2 inches of precipitation. Pasture growth was excellent and green chopping continued. Tilling and planting continued, as the weather permitted. Fruit tree bloom was about over. Blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries were in bloom. There is a high population of bumblebees this year.

**Thurston:** Heavy rainfall, early in the week, brought soil moisture to field capacity. Plenty of moisture, warm temperatures, and long days resulted in prolific and rapid forage growth during the week. Dairy farmers had difficulty keeping up with forage harvesting. Turfgrass growers had difficulty keeping up with mowing fields. Christmas tree growers were applying pesticides to Douglas fir for needle midge, adelgids, and Swiss needle cast.

## CENTRAL

**Benton:** Fruit thinning, irrigation, weed control, and asparagus cutting were major agricultural activities. Cutworm pressure in grapes was extremely high.

**Chelan:** Growers were busy doing spring fruit thinning and insect and disease control. We are concerned about irrigation water shortages.

**Chelan/Douglas:** The apple crop was expected to be down. This is the alternate bearing year, which would normally be approximately 85% of last year. However, estimates were at 65%. High winds may have affected the cherry bloom. Losses were unknown at this time. Otherwise, the crop looked good. The pear crop has had an average bloom and was expected to be average. Lack of moisture continued to be a concern. Some producers with junior water rights were asked to stop irrigation. Livestock producers were concerned about the poor pasture/range conditions. Grazing locations were from 4-6 weeks behind in maturity. Both counties requested emergency grazing of CRP acreage. Winter wheat crop continued to be stressed due to the lack of moisture.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were warm. Asparagus cutting continued. The first cutting of alfalfa was underway. Sweet corn and beans were being planted.

**Grant:** Apple thinning continued. Peas were blooming.

Asparagus harvest continued. Alfalfa swathing was in progress across the area. Livestock were being moved from early ranges, as feed was gone and grasses were drying. Normal livestock movement from these ranges is mid-May.

**Kittitas:** Cooler temperatures and some precipitation have been good for irrigated pastures and rangeland. Timothy and alfalfa hay were growing well. Corn and potatoes were being planted and were growing well.

**Klickitat:** Dry weather continued and rain is needed. Winter wheat looked very good, in parts of the county, while in other parts, lack of sub-surface moisture will result in low yields. Spring grain planting was nearly complete and looked good. The first cutting of dryland alfalfa hay should begin next week, but overall yields do not look good due to a lack of sub-surface moisture and unfavorable spring growing conditions. Pasture and rangeland did not look good, due to deficient precipitation, and some ranchers have been forced to haul water to their livestock—as normally flowing streams have dried up.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Range conditions were very poor for this time of year. Cattle have gone to ranges 3 to 6 weeks later than normal. The county has been experiencing higher than normal wind conditions and colder than normal temperatures. Okanogan County was in the process of requesting emergency grazing on CRP land.

**Yakima:** Temperatures averaged from 2 degrees above normal to 9 degrees below normal. Only a trace of precipitation has been received this month.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Fruit thinning activities continued. A bit too much wind and cool weather slowed fruit growth in some areas. Isolated cases of fire blight were reported. Cherries were between 15-20 mm in length.

## **EASTERN**

**Garfield:** Very late seeding of spring grains, plus alternating warm to cool temperatures, with very strong winds, was diminishing the potential for good yields. Insect attack was very likely on late seeded wheat and barley. Winter wheat was beginning to enter the boot stage and looked good. Canola was growing slowly, so heat could be a factor on late seeded canola. Insect pressure was light, except for flea beetles.

**Lincoln:** Much needed rain was received during the week. Most producers completed spring seedings with a few exceptions. The northeastern part of the county should be finished up this week. Nights remained cool, but most crops were looking good.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Both counties received rain early in the week. The rain total varied from place to place, from .75" to 2.00". Some areas receive heavy downpours early Wednesday, causing damage to some fields, that will need to be harrowed to avoid crusting. Additional warm weather was needed to get pasture and hay acreage growing. Currently, hay continued to be pretty short, and very few livestock producers turned cattle out on pastures, due to the lack of growth. Producers were getting tired of feeding hay to livestock, because hay was in short

supply.

**Stevens:** Rains early in the week, improved pasture and hay crop situation. The mornings were cold, with frost occurring mid-week in some areas. Grain crops appeared to be in good condition.

**Walla Walla:** Cool weather prevailed. More precipitation was received the first part of the week—1.3 inches at one location. Some peas and canola were in bloom. Peas and wheat at higher elevation progressed well.

**Whitman:** A welcomed rain brought moisture early in the week, with accumulations ranging from .4 to .8 inches. Crop conditions looked very good and farmer confidence was high that crop yields may be very good. Grazing conditions were good for most of the county, although some grazing lands in the northwest areas have experience drier conditions and slow pasture growth.

# WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

May 21, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	41	61	52	-3	16	-10	0	0	0.85	0.36	3	22.32	-8.67	72	124
Everett	42	61	51	-4	11	-20	0	0	1.13	0.57	4	20.35	-10.71	66	122
Hoquiam	41	61	50	-4	6	-22	0	0	2.17	1.47	4	39.12	-23.16	63	140
Kelso	37	66	51	-4	13	-20	0	0	0.78	0.22	3	17.87	-23.41	43	110
Olympia	35	67	51	-4	11	-13	0	0	1.55	1.10	3	27.18	-19.21	59	120
Seattle-Tacoma	42	63	52	-4	17	-20	0	0	1.11	0.75	3	20.66	-12.70	62	109
Shelton	37	67	51	-6	10	-30	0	0	2.20	1.70	3	37.02	-23.45	61	127
Tacoma	37	66	52	-4	16	-22	0	0	1.28	0.86	3	22.29	-13.50	62	118
Vancouver	38	71	54	-2	27	-9	0	0	1.01	0.47	3	20.68	-16.32	56	122
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	36	70	51	-5	16	-22	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	5.85	-1.71	77	61
Omak	33	72	53	-2	27	-6	0	0	0.47	0.12	3	4.83	-6.62	42	52
Stampede Pass	29	53	38	-4	0	0	0	0	2.00	1.23	5	47.56	-26.34	64	143
Wenatchee	43	70	56	-4	42	-22	0	-10	0.01	-0.07	1	4.52	-2.35	66	57
Yakima AP	33	74	53	-5	26	-24	0	-6	0.01	-0.09	1	3.67	-3.01	55	51
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	33	73	55	2	42	10	4	4	0.95	0.47	3	10.31	-6.78	60	66
Deer Park	29	69	50	-5	8	-24	0	0	1.17	0.78	3	11.39	-3.79	75	92
Spokane AP	34	67	50	-4	8	-23	0	0	0.78	0.44	3	8.87	-4.46	67	81
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	38	74	55	-6	33	-40	0	-14	0.11	-0.03	3	4.24	-1.74	71	57
Moses Lake	37	73	55	-6	38	-35	0	-14	0.09	-0.05	3	5.69	-0.29	95	54
Quincy	40	71	56	-4	43	-18	0	-9	0.09	-0.05	2	4.84	-1.70	74	51
Ritzville	34	70	52	-3	21	-12	0	0	0.30	0.09	2	8.56	-1.00	90	69
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	31	76	56	-8	45	-49	0	-27	0.01	-0.13	1	4.85	-0.75	87	51
Pasco	35	80	57	-5	52	-28	2	-17	0.14	0.00	2	7.08	0.72	111	63
Pullman	35	65	50	-4	6	-17	0	0	0.13	-0.22	1	11.15	-6.37	64	92
Walla Walla AP	40	71	55	-5	38	-28	0	-11	0.88	0.53	3	14.02	-2.58	84	83
Whitman Mission	35	75	56	-3	40	-14	2	-5	0.46	0.18	3	12.01	0.50	104	86
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A'AP	37	70	52	-4	18	-21	0	0	1.49	1.00	2	13.00	-8.07	62	83
Lewiston ID	38	74	57	-2	52	-7	4	-4	0.52	0.24	2	9.91	0.68	107	85

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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